

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
at WINCHESTER

JAMES L. McAMIS,)
)
Petitioner,)
v.) Nos. 4:05-cv-109 / 4:03-cr-006
)
) Edgar
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Respondent.)

MEMORANDUM

Petitioner James L. McAmis ("McAmis") has filed a motion to vacate, set aside or correct sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to serve a copy of the motion and this Memorandum and accompanying Judgment Order on the United States Attorney. However, for the reasons stated below, the United States Attorney shall not be required to file an answer or other pleading to the motion, and the motion will be **DENIED**.

McAmis pleaded guilty to attempt to manufacture methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of ammunition. By judgment entered on August 11, 2003, he was sentenced to concurrent terms of imprisonment of 70 months on each conviction. He did not appeal his sentence. McAmis now alleges his sentence should be vacated pursuant to the recent U.S. Supreme Courts decisions of *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296 (2004), and *United States v. Booker*, 125 S. Ct. 738 (2005). He also claims his conviction for being a felon in possession should be vacated based upon the recent decision in *Shepard v. United States*, 125 S. Ct. 1254 (2005).

Prior to the enactment of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA"), the only time constraint for a federal prisoner to file a § 2255 motion was if the respondent had been prejudiced in responding to the motion or petition because of the delay in filing. Rule 9(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings For The United States District Courts. As a result of the AEDPA, however, a federal prisoner has one year in which to file a § 2255 motion. The limitation period generally runs from the date on which the judgment of conviction becomes final.

In the event a petitioner does not file a direct appeal, the statute of limitation commences when the time for filing a direct appeal has elapsed. *See Chandler v. United States*, 22 Fed.Appx 399, 400, 2001 WL 1176597 *1 (6th Cir. 2001) (citing *Johnson v. United States*, 246 F.3d 655, 657-58 (6th Cir. 2001)); *see also United States v. Cottage*, 307 F.3d 494, 498 (6th Cir. 2002) (footnote omitted) ("because defendant did not pursue a direct appeal from the judgment of conviction, he cannot rely on the 90-day period for seeking certiorari review of a judgment of the court of appeals to extend the date on which his conviction became final").

In McAmis' case, the statute of limitation began to run on August 21, 2003, which was ten days after judgment was entered. *See Fed. R. Crim. P. 45*. McAmis filed his

§ 2255 motion on December 12, 2005¹, well after the expiration of the one-year statute of limitation.

The court notes that 28 U.S.C. § 2255 provides several exceptions to the statute of limitation, one of which is: the one-year period shall run from "the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review." At this time there is no reason to apply *Blakely* retroactively to a § 2255 motion such as petitioner's. *See, e.g., In Re Dean*, 375 F.3d 1287 (11th Cir. 2004). "No court has yet determined whether *Blakely* created a new rule of constitutional law made retroactive to cases on collateral review." *Id.* at 1290 (citation omitted). In addition, any claim petitioner may have pursuant to *Blakely* is now governed by the Supreme Court's intervening decision in *Booker*, which applied the reasoning in *Blakely* to the federal sentencing guidelines.

In *Booker*, the Court noted that its holding should be applied "to all cases on direct review." *United States v. Booker*, 125 S. Ct. at 769. The Court did not state that the holding should be applied retroactively on collateral review of cases in which the judgment has become final. In fact, the Court quoted *Griffith v. Kentucky*, 479 U.S.. 314, 328 (1987), for the proposition that "'a new rule for the conduct of criminal prosecutions is to be applied retroactively to all cases ... pending on direct review or not yet final, with no exception for

¹ The Court received the § 2255 motion on December 19, 2005. The envelope, however, bears a post-mark of December 12, 2005, and thus the motion is considered filed as of that date, pursuant to the prison mailroom filing rule of *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266, 270-72 (1988). *See Towns v. United States*, 190 F.3d 468 (6th Cir. 1999).

cases in which the new rule constitutes a "clear break" with the past." *Id.* The Sixth Circuit has, in fact, held that *Booker* "does not apply retroactively in collateral proceedings." *Humphress v. United States*, 398 F.3d 855, 860 (6th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 126 S. Ct. 199 (2005).

In *Shepard v. United States*, 125 S. Ct. 1254 (2005), the Supreme Court specified what a district court may and may not consider in determining whether a defendant's prior convictions qualify as predicate offenses for application of the Armed Career Criminal Act. Thus, the Court fails to see how McAmis benefits from the *Shepard* decision. In any event, *Shepard* has not been made retroactive on collateral review. *See, e.g., United States v. Armstrong*, 151 Fed.Appx. 155,157 (3rd Cir. 2005) ("we note that *Shepard* has not been made retroactive by the Supreme Court").

It plainly appears from the face of the motion and the prior proceedings in the case that McAmis is not entitled to relief in this Court and this action should be summarily dismissed; an evidentiary hearing is not required. Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings For The United States District Courts; *Baker v. United States*, 781 F.2d 85, 92 (6th Cir. 1986). Accordingly, the motion to vacate, set aside or correct sentence will be **DENIED** and this action **DISMISSED**.

In addition to the above, this Court has carefully reviewed this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) and hereby **CERTIFIES** that any appeal from this action would not be taken in good faith and would be totally frivolous. Therefore, this Court will **DENY** McAmis leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal. *See* Rule 24 of the Federal Rules of

Appellate Procedure. McAmis having failed to make a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right, a certificate of appealability **SHALL NOT ISSUE**. 28 U.S.C. § 2253.

An order will enter.

/s/ R. Allan Edgar
R. ALLAN EDGAR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE